

April 21, 1977

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a nice job here, but I would like to have it clearly pointed out where the responsibility of this office is going to lie. If you don't have any real big objections, because it is your bill, I think that I am going to support Senator Duis' amendment because I think that it is reasonable that we designate that this is a separate energy office and not perhaps a part of another office, or maybe parts of two offices. I think that they are going to have a real monumental program facing them here. I think that they have a lot of responsibility and I think that we should delegate that responsibility to the office and with that I would hope that you could support this too.

SENATOR MARVEL PRESIDING

SENATOR MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: A question of Senator Fowler please. Senator Fowler in your budget activities noting the request last year was for some \$400,000 which was ultimately reduced I think to \$75,000. This year the request is, the Governor's recommendation is \$123,000 and if we in fact merge this into another agency will you in the appropriations committee have enough, I hate to use the word "handle on" it, to be able to confine the activities of this particular agency to thoroughly separate it and understand what we are spending with it. I don't know....

SENATOR FOWLER: I'm not sure that I understood the question.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well it is a component of Agency 16, the Department of Revenue?

SENATOR FOWLER: Correct.

SENATOR MURPHY: And, the budgetary recommendation of the Governor indicates that this year he is recommending \$123,000 and last year it was \$75,000. I am just saying that if this agency continues a sub-agency will the appropriations department be able to put enough of a handle on it to confine their budget and keep it from getting to be a full blown bureaucracy when it is not productive.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well I guess that....

SENATOR MURPHY: What control do we have over it Steve if we put it under another agency. If it is a separate agency I think that you can pretty well define its activities in its budget. If it is a sub-agency can you exercise the same control in the Appropriations Committee?

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, as part of the Department of Revenue I think that there are costs. It has been explained to me that some of the costs support services for the energy office are probably in the Department of Revenue Budget, legal counsel and so on. Now, if we move it into a separate agency, we would have to provide some funding for those services. In fact I think there is a question of efficiency as to whether the energy office right now is big enough to be a separate agency or not. I think, you know, it may be more cost effective right now for it to share

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